



McINTOSH
HUMANITIES
BUILDING

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES

**California State University,
Long Beach**

Newsletter 2025–2026



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WGSS STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT COMMENCEMENT 2026

**DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN'S, GENDER, &
SEXUALITY STUDIES**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have had another vibrant and productive year in the Department of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. This year has been marked by faculty and student achievements, exciting new departmental developments, and continued efforts to build community and sustain the critical work of our field.

Our faculty continue to engage in groundbreaking scholarship, curricular innovation, and leadership in the field. We are thrilled to announce that **Drs. Basarudin and Macias** have been selected as the new co-editors of *Feminist Formations*, a leading journal for innovative work in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies that is published by the *Johns Hopkins University Press*. It is an incredible honor to house this journal in our department, and we look forward to Drs. Basarudin and Macias' editorial leadership and the exciting opportunities that this will provide our students. We are also excited to welcome **Dr. Koshy** as a new tenure-track faculty member beginning in Fall 2026. Dr. Koshy has been an exceptional lecturer faculty member in the department for a decade.



DR. KAVITHA KOSHY

As a new tenure-track faculty member, she will continue to teach in the department, while fully participating in research and service activities. We also welcomed about 30 feminist faculty from across the campus to join us as WGSS Affiliated Faculty to support our students, outreach efforts, and co-curricular programming.



**ADAM BIRD AND
EMMA GONZALES**

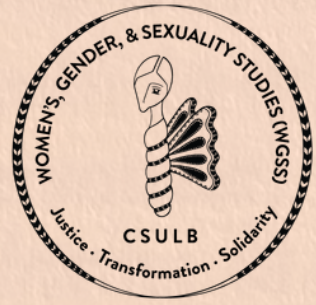
Our students remain at the heart of everything we do. From our 2025–2026 interns to our graduating seniors, WGSS students have demonstrated remarkable creativity, intellectual rigor, and commitment to social justice. We honored their achievements at our graduation celebration, where we recognized award and scholarship recipients. Student research has been especially noteworthy this year. We had multiple students present their research at CSULB and CSULA. **Emma Gonzales** (WGSS and

Philosophy) and **Adam Bird** (Political Science, Queer Studies minor) represented us at the CSULB Student Research Competition with innovative projects. Our students also presented at the CSULA Center for the Study of Gender and Sexualities' Annual Student Research Conference. WGSS 495 students produced and presented original research through their capstone projects, and WGSS 424 students presented their collaborative research projects at the Annual Green Generation Showcase. In Fall 2025, two students, **Darya Jafarinejad** and **Christine Nader**, founded the *Wild Tongues Journal*, an arts and literary feminist journal that is housed in WGSS. The first two issues published this year are amazing collections of young feminists' creative intellectual work on the themes of "Personal is Political" and "Silence is Violence."

Our students' accomplishments have also been widely recognized this year. We are incredibly proud of our two Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows, **Darya Jafarinejad** and **Nicole Gregg**, whose work exemplifies the next generation of WGSS scholarship.

DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN'S, GENDER, &
SEXUALITY STUDIES

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



The **Susan M. Rigney Endowed Scholarship** was awarded for the first time this year to **Kass Malcor**, whose work in Queer Studies speaks to the transformative power of this field. Scholarships like this make a tangible difference in supporting our students' academic journeys and future aspirations. Kass (Queer Studies Minor, History Major) will be pursuing an MA in History at CSULB in the Fall with the support of this scholarship. We are very grateful to **Susan Rigney** for providing this scholarship opportunity for our students. We also celebrated our graduating students with our departmental awards in Feminist Academic Excellence (**Emma Gonzales**), Feminist Leadership (**Kass Malcor**), and Radical Feminist Activism (**Blue Chandler and Isabel Alvarenga**).

Community engagement also remains central to WGSS. We organized and participated in events such as *Feminism in the Face of Fascism*, *The History of WGSS at CSULB*, and *Feminisms and WGSS: State of the Field*, alongside community-building gatherings like our Festive Feminist Mixer and annual graduation celebration. Our outreach efforts—including Long Beach College Promise tours, student ambassador classroom visits, Day at the Beach, and CLA Day—continue to introduce students to our department and field of study.



These accomplishments take place within a broader national and global context in which Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies—and the liberal arts and higher education more broadly—face increasing political attacks. Efforts to restrict curriculum and undermine critical inquiry pose real challenges to our mission. Yet, it is precisely in this moment that WGSS proves indispensable. Our field equips students with the analytical tools to understand systems of power, the historical grounding to contextualize the present, and the imagination to build more just futures.

To continue this work, we rely on the support of our community. Alumni contributions directly fund student scholarships, research opportunities, conference travel, and public programming. Your support ensures that WGSS remains a space where students can learn, grow, and lead. I invite you to make a gift to the Department of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. Your investment supports and sustains the next generation of feminist leaders, scholars, and activists.

Thank you for being part of our community.

With appreciation,

Dr. Lori Baralt

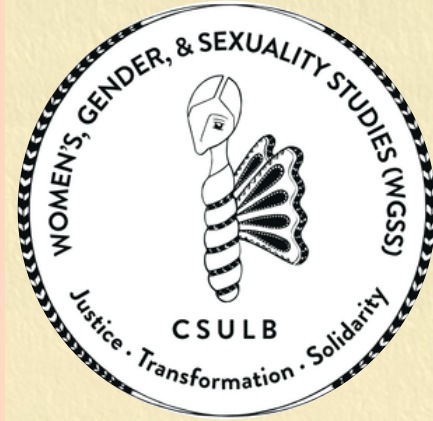


DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN'S, GENDER, &
SEXUALITY STUDIES



NEW DEPARTMENT LOGO

We are excited to share a new logo for the department. We commissioned artist Mary Hazboun to create a logo that would reflect the work and impact of the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies department. When generating ideas for a logo, the WGSS faculty were inspired by WGSS students' transformative experience through their WGSS education. Dr. Basarudin worked closely alongside Mary to ensure that the WGSS vision was reflected in the logo.



Dr. Basarudin notes, "The logo is an androgynous figure that signifies transformation-in-progress/process, which [the WGSS faculty] agreed reflects our students' experiences and WGSS's mission."



ABOUT THE ARTIST

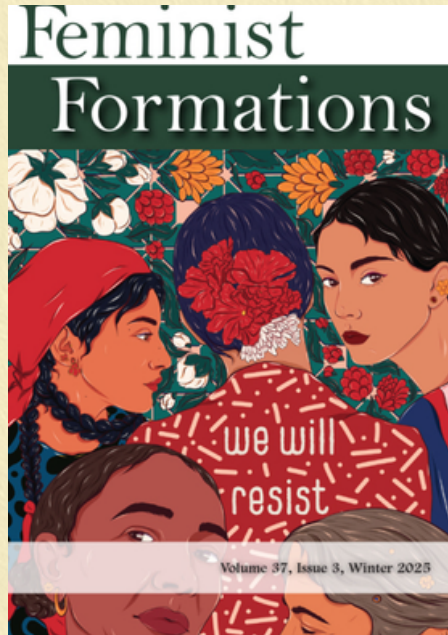
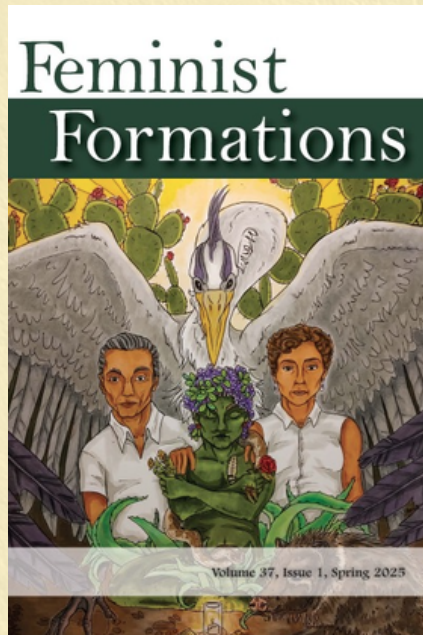
Mary Hazboun is a multidisciplinary Chicago-based Palestinian artist who practices "The Art of Weeping" as an act of processing grief and somatic healing of bodies through drawing.

She graduated from DePaul University in 2017 with a Master's degree in Women's and Gender Studies. Mary's work highlights the nuanced traumas of women and their resistance

against different forms of oppression that are manifested in the military machine, patriarchal societies, and forced migrations. She uses art as a way of emptying blocked emotions, opening internal space, and pouring in trauma-informed introspections as a form of healing. Mary was born and raised in the city of Bethlehem and moved to the U.S in 2004. You can follow Mary's work on her Instagram, @maryhazboun48.

DEPARTMENT
UPDATES

ACQUISITION OF FEMINIST FORMATIONS JOURNAL



The WGSS department is thrilled to announce that we will now be the home of the *Feminist Formations* Journal. **Drs. Stacy Macias** and **Azza Basarudin** were selected as the new journal co-editors, which is an incredible honor. The journal, which is published by the *Johns Hopkins University Press*, was created in 1988 for the National Women's Studies Association and remains a leading journal of cutting-edge feminist scholarship.



DEPARTMENT
UPDATES



WILD TONGUES

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Founded in Fall 2025, **Wild Tongues Arts and Literary Journal**, housed in the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies department, is informed by intersectional, decolonial, and transnational feminist praxis. The name of the journal is derived from Gloria Anzaldúa's quote, "Wild Tongues cannot be tamed."

Through feminist art and writing, Wild Tongues aims to resist eurocentric feminisms, cultural erasure, queerphobia, transphobia, anti-immigrant sentiments, ableism, and all forms of structural and institutional oppression. Taking inspiration from women of color feminists and their allies, Wild Tongues continues legacies of intersectional and decolonial feminist practices. The journal seeks art and writing that explores how the personal is political; we want to learn from and about a variety of people's experiences, histories, subjectivities, and more.

Visit the Wild Tongues Website to keep up with future issues!



Darya Jafarinejad
Founder/Editor-In-Chief
Photo by Gopi Vadsak



Christine Nader
Co-Founder/Managing Editor
Photo by Gopi Vadsak

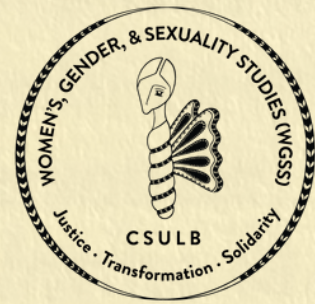


Amelia Suon
Editor
Photo courtesy of Amelia Suon



Alitza Sanchez
Editor
Photo courtesy of Alitza Sanchez

RE-INTRODUCING DR. KAVITHA KOSHY



The WGSS Department is thrilled to announce that **Dr. Kavitha Koshy**, a WGSS lecturer for the past decade, will be an Assistant Professor in our department beginning in Fall 2026. Dr. Koshy will continue teaching and mentoring our students with care and compassion. We are grateful to the California Faculty Association's work with the campus administration in developing the lecturer reclassification program.



Dr. Koshy has taught both core and elective WGSS courses such as Feminist Theory, U.S. Women and the Economy: Sex, Money and Power, and the Senior Capstone Seminar. Her research primarily focuses on feminist and labor movements in South Asia and community-based interventions to gender violence in India. In 2022, Dr. Koshy published her book, *The Paradoxes of Indian American Complicity: On the Racial Sidelines*, which explores Indian immigrant racialization at the turn of the twenty-first century.



She reflects on her time in the WGSS department, “WGSS is my home; has been for a decade, I learn and grow and teach every day amongst the fiercest and bravest folks you will ever meet.”

ACHIEVEMENTS
FACULTY



DR. AZZA BASARUDIN'S SABBATICAL AND PUBLICATIONS

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



During her sabbatical leave, **Dr. Azza Basarudin** conducted ethnographic research in Malaysia for her second book. The book explores the lives of LGBTQ individuals among Malay Muslims and their communal intimacies against the backdrop of escalating state-sponsored hostility, misinformation, stigmatization, and enforcement, which is heightened by a dual legal system, civil and sharia, and rising neo-Malay ethnonationalism. While in Malaysia, Dr. Basarudin was affiliated as a Visiting Researcher with the Penang Institute, one of Malaysia's major think tanks, and she served as a Visiting Researcher at the Center for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA) at the Universiti Sains Malaysia.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Basarudin, Azza. "Owning' Women: Misogynist Rampage, Declining Rights, and Savage Violence in Global Antifeminist Backlash." *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies* 46, no. 3 (2025): 37–68. <https://doi.org/10.1353/fro.2025.a978068>.

Basarudin, Azza. "Mak Nyahs and the Subject of Rights: Perversity, Piety, and Citizenship in Malaysia." In *Feminist Studies: An Introductory Reader*, eds Hemangini Gupta, Kelly Sharron, Carly Thomsen, and Abraham Weil, 209-219. New York, NY: Routledge, 2025.

Basarudin, Azza. "Hidup Untuk Makan Atau Makan Untuk Hidup?" (Live to Eat or Eat to Live?): Gendered Feeding Practices in a Malaysian Food Archive." In *Culinaria: Women of Color Rewriting Our Food Studies*, eds. Janaka Lewis, Farha Ternikar, and Stephanie Evans. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press (forthcoming, Fall 2026).

Basarudin, Azza and Tina Beyene. "Feminist Dispatch: Confronting Global Antifeminist Backlash." *Al-Raida: The Pioneer Journal* (forthcoming, Fall 2026).

Basarudin, Azza and Tina Beyene. "Embodied Precarity: Feminist Politics, Laboring Bodies of Color, and the Neoliberal University." In *Decolonial Feminist Genealogies and Futures*, eds. Annie Isabel Fukushima and K. Melchor Quick Hall, 49-63. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2025.

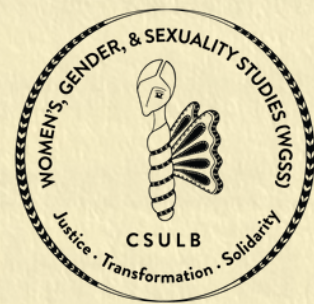
Basarudin, Azza and Elora Halim Chowdhury, "When Brown Men Wail: Masculinity, Public Grief, and Gendered Refusal." *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism* 25.2 (forthcoming, Fall 2026).



PHOTOS FROM DR. BASARUDIN'S SABBATICAL



DR. STACY MACIAS' PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR



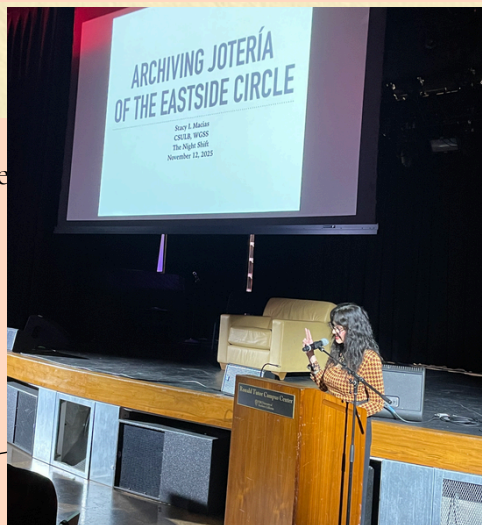
Dr. Stacy Macias had quite the year for publications and presentations. Between the acquisition of the Feminist Foundations Journal and teaching core WGSS classes, Dr. Macias presented at the Lesbian Lives Conference and published four articles. Dr. Macias was also promoted to Full Professor this year. We are thrilled to celebrate her accomplishments!

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Presenter, “New Directions in Lesbian Studies: The Dyke 90s.” Lesbian Lives Conference: Lesbian* Life & Living, University of Cork, Cork, Ireland. May 14-17, 2026.

Presenter, “Queer Relationality: Exploring Lesbian Worlds, Life Narratives, and Intimacies.” Lesbian Lives Conference: The Lesbian International. City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, NY. October 24-26, 2025

Panelist, “A Roundtable on Queer Femininities” with Joan Nestle, Dr. Sarah-Joy Ford, Dr. Rhea Ashley Hoskin, Dr. Xine Yao, Chaka Bachmann & moderated by Dr. Róisín Ryan-Flood. Centre for Intimate and Sexual Citizenship, University of Essex, UK. June 18, 2025



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Macias, Stacy I. “Compañeras, Tortilleras, and the Girls Our Mothers Still Warn Us About: Reviewing the State of Research on Queer Latinas” *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* 51, no. 1 (2026): 165-178.

Macias, Stacy I. “Lesbian Lineages and Lessons.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 51, no. 1 (2025): 287-289.

Corbman, Rachel, Ann Cvetkovich, Jack Jen Giesecking, **Stacy I. Macias**, Joan Nestle, Olivia Polk, SaraEllen Strongman, and Mairead Sullivan. “A Roundtable on Lesbian Generations.” *Feminist Theory* 26, no. 3 (2025): 531-551. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14647001251316096>

Macias, Stacy I. “Calling All Chicana Feminist Theorists, Trans Historians, and Queer Femme Scholars: Abject Epistemologies in Feminist Theory Historiography.” In *Feminist Studies: An Introductory Reader*, edited by Hemangini Gupta et al., 51-57. London: Routledge, 2025.

ACHIEVEMENTS
FACULTY



MANY THANKS TO OUR 2025/2026 STUDENT INTERNS



NAT ESTRADA
SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN

They/Her

Psych Major/WGSS Minor



JACK SALGADO
WGSS INTERN

She/Her

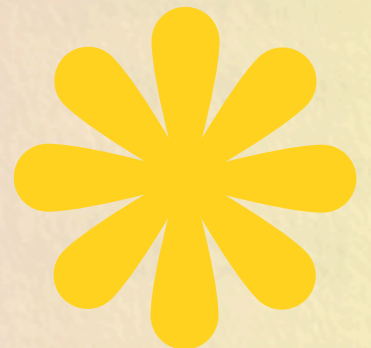
WGSS & English Major



NICOLE GREGG
SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN

She/They

Anthropology & Human Development
Major/WGSS Minor





KATRINA MA
WGSS INTERN

She/They

WGSS & Psych Major



BREANNA DODGE
WGSS INTERN

She/They

WGSS Major/Religious
Studies Minor



MARLENE ESTRADA TAPIA
STUDENT AMBASSADOR

She/Her/Ella

WGSS Major



SADIE WORKMAN
WGSS INTERN

She/Her

WGSS Major



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

FEMINISM IN THE FACE OF FACISM



In November, Drs. Basarudin, Reed, Baralt, Macias, and Hidalgo held a roundtable discussion responding to the rise of fascism and the anti-gender movement in the U.S. The room overflowed with a captive audience of affiliated faculty, students, and staff.

WGSS x WGEC WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

During Women's History Month, the WGSS department collaborated with the Women and Gender Equity Center on a lecture series and events on campus. We highlighted the history of WGSS as a field of study and connected it to the current attacks on the field and discussed the ways in which the field has grown and expanded over the past 50 years. Special thanks to WGEC Associate Director Celia Mejia for co-organizing these successful events!



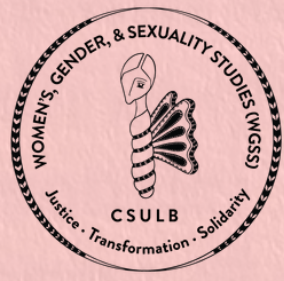
THE HISTORY OF WGSS AT CSULB: LESSONS FROM THE PAST



FEMINISMS AND WGSS: STATE OF THE FIELD

WGSS
EVENTS

WGSS ON AND OFF CAMPUS



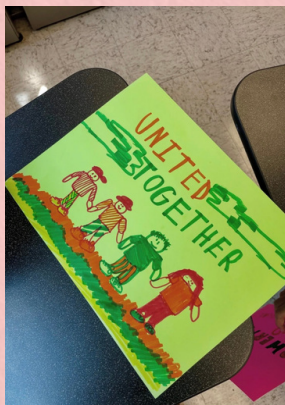
DAY AT THE BEACH

Every April, CSULB hosts incoming prospective students at their annual Day at the Beach. The WGSS department was represented at this event by our student interns. Special thanks to **Jack Salgado**, **Nat Estrada**, **Marlene Estrada Tapia**, and **Breanna Dodge** for representing WGSS to prospective students and their families.



LONG BEACH COLLEGE PROMISE 5TH GRADE TOURS

This year, the WGSS department participated in the Long Beach College Promise 5th Grade Tours. The Long Beach College Promise partners with LBUSD schools to guide students through college and on to their careers. **Dr. Lori Baralt** and our student ambassador, **Marlene Estrada Tapia**, met with LBUSD 5th grade classes and led them in social justice discussions and activities.



WGSS EVENTS

EL CAMINO COLLEGE AGENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE FAIR

We had the opportunity to promote WGSS off campus at the El Camino College “Agents of Social Change Career & University Fair”. **Dr. Jennifer Reed** and two of our students, **Emma Gonzales** and **Katrina Ma**, provided information about our program to prospective students.



WGSS
WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES FALL MIXER

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
GRASS AREA OUTSIDE OF MHB
10AM-11:30AM

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

COME MEET WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS!

WED SEPT 17th 12PM MCINTOSH BUILDING RM 819

PIZZA DE RESISTANCE

TEACHING GENDER & ACADEMIC FREEDOM

MYRIAM GURBA BOOK TALK

POPPY STATE
A LABYRINTH OF PLANTS AND A STORY OF BEGINNINGS

MYRIAM GURBA
National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13
11:00AM - 12:15PM
PH1 Room 141

Sponsored by the Departments of English, Cinema and Latino Studies, Geography, Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Vision Board & Zine Making – Reimagining Our Futures

12:00pm - 1:30pm | Wednesday February 4 | Library 300 *3rd floor*

JOIN US FOR A CREATIVE SPACE TO ENVISION AND EXPRESS YOURSELF!
Materials and snacks are provided

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES (WGSS)
Justice Transformation - Solidarity

FALL AND SPRING WGSS EVENTS

WGSS SPRING MIXER

COME HANG WITH WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS AND LEARN ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION
WE WILL HAVE PIZZA!

TRANS EDUCATION FOR TRANS FUTURES:
Community Chalk Mural

Chalk provided! Free beverages!

23 March, Monday | 11 AM - 2PM
Upper Quad – Center Walkway

The David Hood Chair of Ancient History and Eta Sigma Phi, The Classics Department Honor Society proudly present

Dr. Katherine Harrington
Assistant Professor, Ancient Mediterranean Studies and Archaeology
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Spinning Tales: Material Culture and the 'Invisibility' of Women's Labor in Ancient Greece

Thursday, April 16 at 4:30 PM
The Anatol Center, CSULB

SEE YOU AT

SEXTIVAL 2026

SEX POSITIVE RESOURCE FAIR

TUESDAY
APRIL 14 | 11AM - 2PM

SPEAKER'S PLATFORM

ACTIVITIES AND GOODIES



WGSS COURSE SPOTLIGHTS

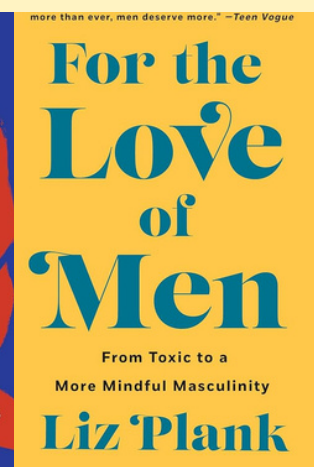
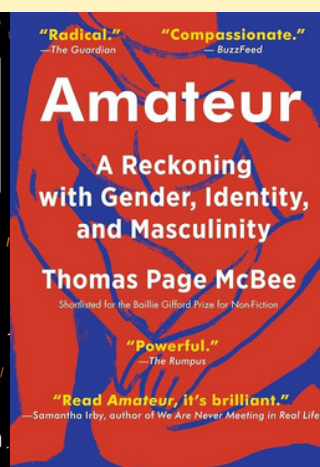
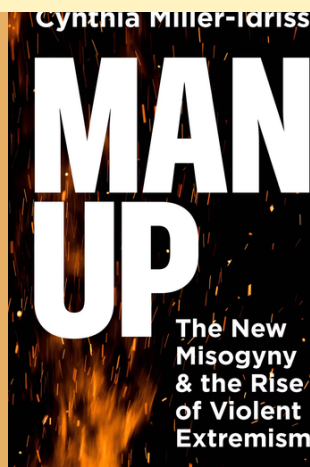
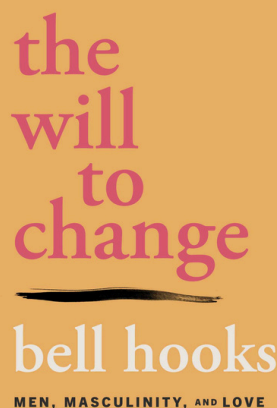
WGSS 424: GENDERING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



WGSS 424 continues to be a popular class not only among our WGSS students, but also with Environmental Science & Policy students. Every spring, **Dr. Lori Baralt** invites the authors and creators of the *Intersectional Environmentalist* org/book to speak to students and demonstrate how to put their WGSS curriculum into praxis. Towards the end of the semester, WGSS 424 students submit and present their culminating projects at the Green Generation Showcase on campus at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden (see page 24).

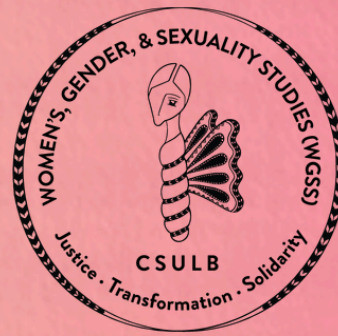
WGSS 370: MASCULINITIES

In Spring 2026, the WGSS department brought back a beloved course, which will continue to be regularly offered. **WGSS 370: Masculinities** explores the complexity of masculinity in the current social and political moment. **Dr. Jennifer Reed** describes masculinity as “highly elastic, always informed by power relations, and used in ways that often mystify rather than clarify.” Below are the books that Dr. Reed taught in the Spring. The enrollment in the course suggests a strong interest in this area of gender studies.



THE COURSE SPOTLIGHTS

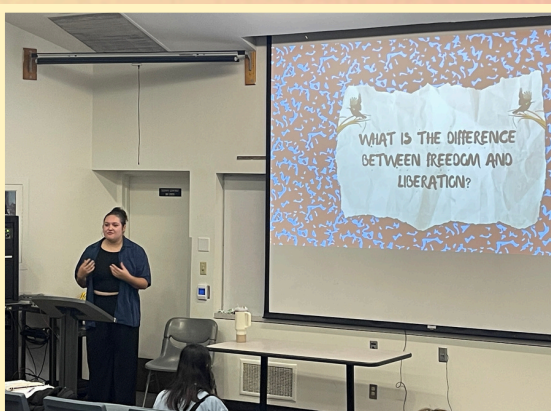
WGSS 496: INTERNSHIP



SPRING 2026 INTERNSHIP COURSE COHORT

We were fortunate to have six student interns for spring semester. With so much interest, our department was able to create two new WGSS department student internships. We now offer a newsletter editor and archive manager position, along with our social media manager and student ambassador positions. In the course, **Dr. Macias** has the students research our alumni and learn how they are utilizing their WGSS education in their careers. We have reconnected with many of our alum, some who are featured in this newsletter (see pages 19-20) as well as on our Instagram and coming soon on our website! This year, we have made major curricular updates, including to our internship class. WGSS 496 (changing to WGSS 302) will now be offered every fall semester to assist our students who wish to apply to graduate school. We plan to integrate our alum with this process so be sure to follow our Instagram for our call for alum participation.

COURSE
SPOTLIGHT





WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WGSS ALUMNI

As part of their internship, our interns profiled WGSS alumni for our social media, website, and our annual newsletter. If you are a WGSS alum and would like to be featured on our social platforms and the next newsletter, please see page 19 for more information!



SAVANNA CAVALLETO
SHE/HER

Major: Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Minor: Queer Studies

Year of Graduation: 2014

Current Occupation: Foster Care Program Specialist

"Since graduating, my relationship to WGSS has shifted in different ways depending on the context. In my current career, it feels less central on the surface, but I still make intentional efforts to bring it into my own work when I can, for example, by providing information on how to support LGBTQIA+ foster youth. Even if it's not the primary focus of my job, it continues to shape how I approach the work and communities I serve."

Major: Sociology

Minor: Women's Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Year of Graduation: 2011

Current Occupation: District Director for Assemblymember Michelle Rodriguez

"Professionally, this foundation guided me toward a career in public service & political organizing. I worked on political campaigns and eventually served as the California & New York Statewide Deputy Field Director for Senator Bernie Sanders' 2020 presidential campaign. While the campaign did not achieve its ultimate goal, it reinforced my commitment to advancing equity and systematic change."

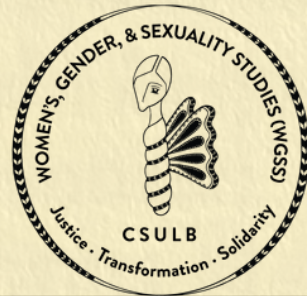


ROXANNA GARCIA
SHE/HER

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WGSS ALUMNI



Double Major: Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies & Psychology

Year of Graduation: 2012

Current Occupation: Nonprofit Contract & Data Management Director

"I went on to earn a Masters Degree in Women's Studies from SDSU, where I worked as a Lecturer after graduation for a couple years. I taught research methods and feminist program evaluation. I have continued to work at universities and in nonprofit organizations, where I use what I learned from WGSS & grad school to inform how I lead. WGSS scholarship continues to be an important part of my work and my life, especially in the current political climate."



RHIANNA MARAS
SHE/HER/HERS

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT



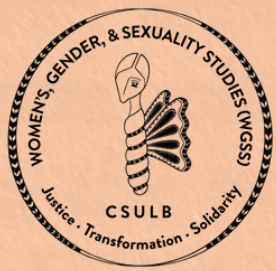
ROCKY HEFNER
THEY/THEM/THEIRS

Double Major: Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies & Psychology

Year of Graduation: 2012

Current Occupation: Paraeducator Special Education

"Working with children with disabilities, and now pursuing a teaching credential, my WGSS scholarship has been crucially beneficial to my professional development. I'm not sure what else to say except is that WGSS is me, and I am WGSS! Thus, it is extremely central to who I am as a person, and how I carry out my day to day."



OUR AWARD WINNING STUDENTS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



During our annual graduation celebration, we presented our departmental student awards. Congrats to the efforts of these students in their scholarship, activism, and leadership! From left to right: **Kass Malcor**, Feminist Leadership Awardee, **Emma Gonzales**, Feminist Academic Excellence Awardee, **Blue Chandler**, Radical Feminist Activist Awardee, **Isabel Alvarenga**, Radical Feminist Activist Awardee

THE SUSAN M. RIGNEY SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to introduce a brand new scholarship from CSULB alum, **Susan Rigney**! Rigney earned her BA in Sociology with a Human Resource Management minor in 1981. Now a retired psychotherapist, Rigney has offered this scholarship to continuing CLA students who have taken a queer studies course. The scholarship was given to **Kass Malcor**, one of our Queer Studies minors who will be continuing their academic journey at CSULB through the History M.A. program. Congrats Kass!

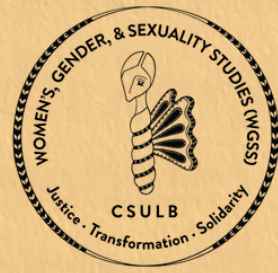


The Impact of WGSS and Why Susan Started the Scholarship

“My personal history in Women’s Studies began my first semester at The Beach in the fall of 1977. The class was The Biology and Sexuality of Women. At the time I had no idea how this one class, taught by Betty Brooks, would impact my entire life by expanding my compassion and appreciation for people living their lives differently from my own. She taught me how to stand up strong and respect myself. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to have known her.

My purpose in establishing the Susan M. Rigney Endowed Award is to honor my memory of Betty Brooks. By encouraging students to explore Queer Studies, this award can make a difference in the understanding and acceptance of the lives of others. It is my hope that the spirit of Betty Brooks lives on at The Beach today.”

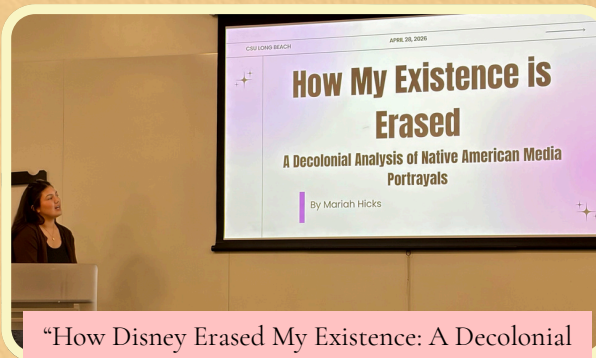
WGSS CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECTS



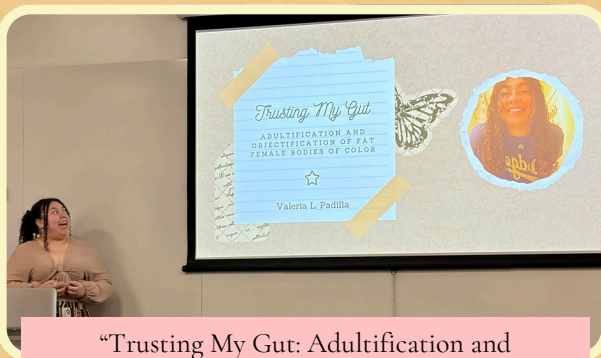
The WGSS department is incredibly proud of our majors' capstone research projects. What started as research proposals in WGSS 301: Feminist Research Methods with Dr. Basarudin, were transformed into cutting-edge feminist research projects in WGSS 495: Senior Capstone Seminar with Dr. Koshy.



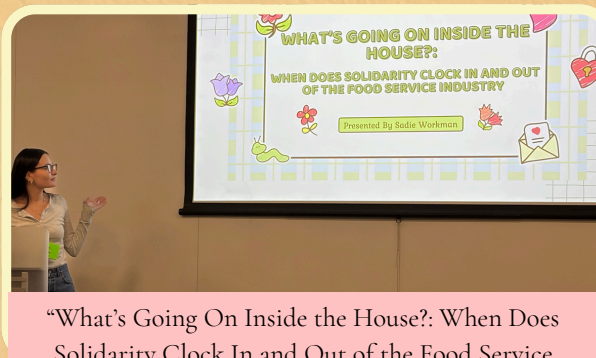
“Pretty Boys & Profit: Masculinity and Fandom in K-Pop”
by **Marcus Bode**



“How Disney Erased My Existence: A Decolonial Analysis of Native American Media Portrayals”
by **Mariah Hicks**



“Trusting My Gut: Adultification and Objectification of Fat Female Bodies of Color”
by **Valeria L. Padilla**



“What’s Going On Inside the House?: When Does Solidarity Clock In and Out of the Food Service Industry”
by **Sadie Workman**



“It’s a Girl...Now What? Gender Reveals in America”
by **Cristian Julian Chigbolu**

“Silenced by Tradition: Machismo and Intimate Partner Violence in Latino Relationships”
by **Kayla Liberona**

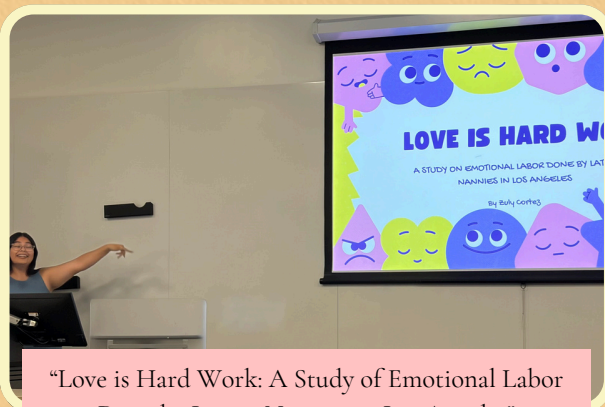
“Neurofeminism and the Bodymindbrain: Rethinking Neuroscience Sex Difference Research”
by **Emma Gonzales**

STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENTS



WGSS CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECTS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



“Love is Hard Work: A Study of Emotional Labor Done by Latina Nannies in Los Angeles”
by Zuly Cortes



“Shedding the Lining of Medical Misogyny: Examining the Misogyny of the U.S. Medical Institution and the Prolonged Suffering of Assigned Female at Birth Bodies”
by Emily Ontiveros



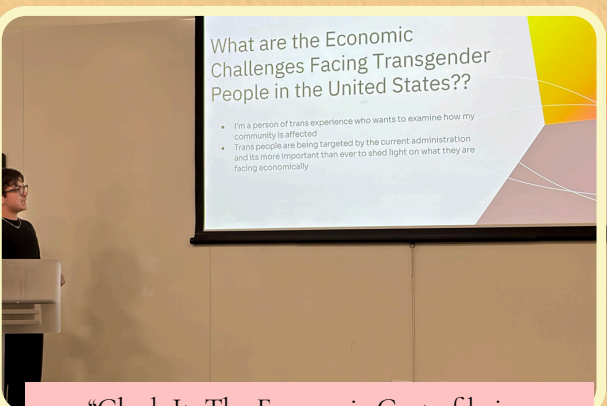
“Sacrificing Friendships: A Site of Healing, Belonging and Knowledge Production”
by Marlene Estrada Tapia



“Poison in Plain Sight: Environmental Racism in the Los Angeles Harbor Area”
by Isabel Alvarenga

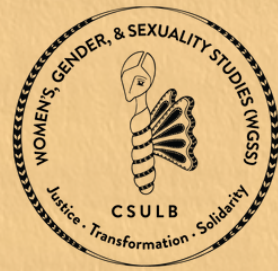


“Mentally Ill or Just Gay?: Exploring Queer Young Adults' Mental Health”
by Katrina Ma



“Clock It: The Economic Cost of being Transgender in the United States”
by Daze Llamas

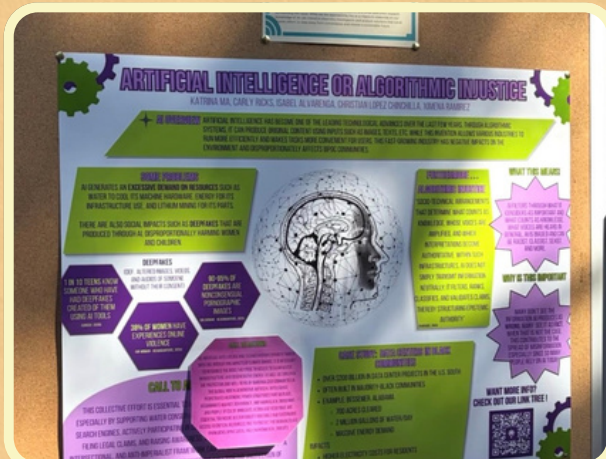
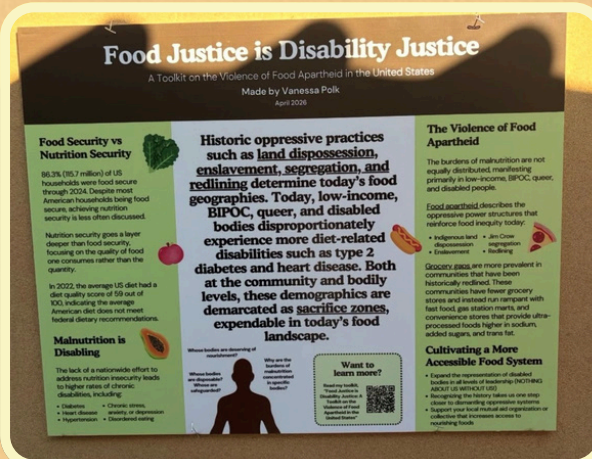
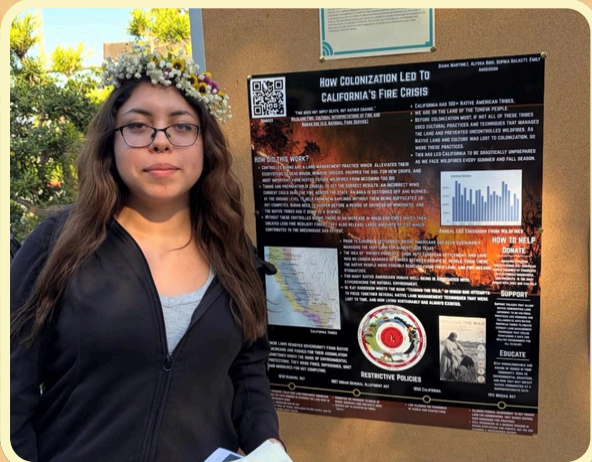
THE GREEN GENERATION SHOWCASE



Every Spring semester, student from WGSS 424: Gendering Environmental Justice present their group research projects at the Green Generation Showcase on campus at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden. This year the presented on:

- How Colonization Led to California's Fire Crisis
- The Fixation on Innovation: Epistemic Injustice Against Indigenous People
- The Green Space Gap In LA
- Fertility: From the Land to the Womb
- Environmental Education for the Next Generation
- Artificial Intelligence or Algorithmic Injustice?
- Food Justice is Disability Justice

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



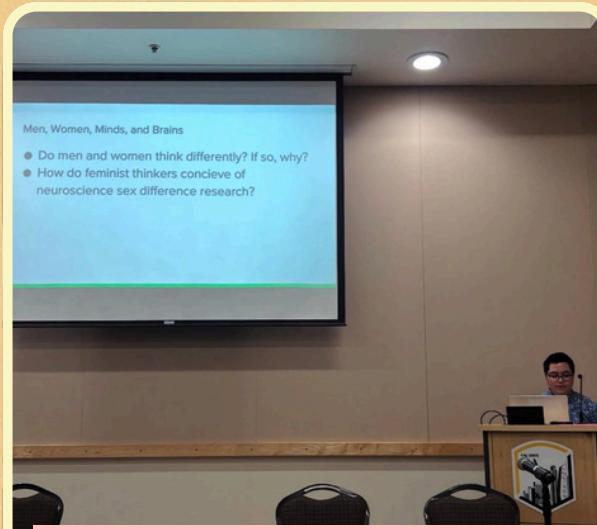


CSU LOS ANGELES CSGS CONFERENCE

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



"Songs of Freedom: Resilience and Resistance in Persian Mythology and the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' Movement in Iran"
by Darya Jafarinejad



"Rethinking, Secx, Gender, and the Brain: Neurofeminism and it Discontents"
by Emma Gonzales

WGSS students presented their research projects at California State University, Los Angeles' Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities 22nd Annual Student Research Conference. The theme for this year's conference was "Gender, Sexuality, and Power." Our department was represented by four outstanding students, Darya Jafarinejad, Emma Gonzales, Kass Malcor, and Nicole Gregg.



"The Fight for Queer Liberty or Tolerance: the AB101 Veto and Gay Political Fractures in California"
by Kass Malcor

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GENDERS
AND SEXUALITIES CONFERENCE 2026

Latina Lesbian Lineages

Nicole Gregg (she/they)



"Latina Lesbian Lineages"
by Nicole Gregg



CONGRATS TO OUR 2026 WGSS GRADUATES

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



**WGSS STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT
COMMENCEMENT 2026**

We celebrated our grads with their loved ones at our yearly graduation celebration. Special thanks to the Wild Chive for hosting the space and providing delicious food. Thank you to Saturation Room for capturing memories. (see page 27). Many of our students and faculty attended Cultural Graduations and the University Graduation, both held on campus this year. We are proud of the work our students co-created with our faculty and the feminist community that they built while they were here. We are excited to see what they will do next!



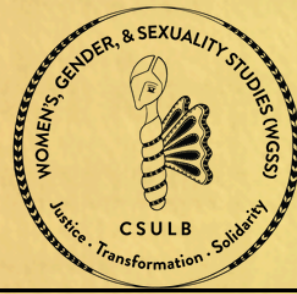
CONGRATS 2026 GRADS!



WGSS GRADUATION CELEBRATION @ WILD CHIVE



WGSS MAJOR, MINOR, AND QUEER STUDIES MINOR



WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES (WGSS)

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is the hub for feminist research and teaching about gender and sexuality—topics that are often misrepresented, erased, and criminalized in mainstream representations. Our mission is to encourage meaningful interrogation of systems of power by analyzing historical, systemic, and institutionalized patterns of injustice. Our curriculum, pedagogical approaches, and holistic mentorship cultivate students who approach global citizenship with critical thinking, collaborative engagement, and strong communication skills that help them build a more just future in their chosen career and life path.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A WGSS DEGREE?

WGSS majors pursue careers and graduate education in many different fields. WGSS prepares students to meet the challenges of the 21st century and to successfully pursue careers in a variety of fields, from community organizations to government agencies, healthcare to education, law and public policy to business, and more.

DEPARTMENT RESOURCES FOR WGSS STUDENTS

- ✓ Major in WGSS
- ✓ Minor in WGSS & Queer Studies
- ✓ Personalized Advising & Mentorship
- ✓ Leadership Training & Opportunities
- ✓ Extensive Alumni Network & Community-Building Opportunities
- ✓ Scholarships
- ✓ Internships
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Guest Speakers
- ✓ Student Organizations



FOLLOW US @csulbwgss

Scan the QR for more WGSS info

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN WGSS (45 units)

In addition to the theoretical frameworks and insights that students gain from a degree in WGSS, our students also develop several beneficial career and life skills, including:

- ★ Strong critical thinking skills
- ★ Confident oral presentation skills
- ★ Effective writing communication skills
- ★ Strong research skills
- ★ Career readiness

MINOR IN WGSS (18 units)

Students who minor in WGSS take three core courses (WGSS 101, WGSS 102, and WGSS 300) and choose three additional classes from a wide range of electives. WGSS minors can focus on developing their WGSS knowledge while completing many GE requirements via WGSS courses.

MINOR IN QUEER STUDIES (15 units)

Students who minor in Queer Studies take two core courses (WGSS 205 and WGSS 416) and choose three additional classes from a wide range of electives in a variety of disciplines.

TAKE A WGSS GE COURSE!

Many of our courses will also count toward your General Education requirements. Here are a few examples of popular courses that also count toward GE.

WGSS 102	Gender, Race, Sex, & Societies (Lower Division D)	WGSS 365	Popular Culture: Seeing Sex & Gender (Upper Division C & D)
WGSS 205	Introduction to Queer Studies (Lower Division D)	WGSS 401	Bodies & Borders: Feminism & Globalization (Upper Division D)
WGSS 305	Queer Arts and Cultures (Writing Intensive)		

TALK WITH THE WGSS CHAIR OR ADVISOR!

Declaring a major or minor in WGSS is easy. Just contact the Department Chair, Dr. Lori Baralt:

LORI.BARALT@CSULB.EDU

She is happy to answer your questions and help with the next steps. For general questions, email:

CLA-WGSS@CSULB.EDU



Department of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies
MHB-819 | (562) 985-2850

CSULB CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

SPREAD THE WORD

Our department offers a WGSS major and minor as well as an interdisciplinary Queer Studies minor. We are always updating our curriculum by adding new courses like **WGSS 330: Feminist Politics of Rage**, and reviving courses that have not been offered in a while, such as **WGSS 314: Women Narrate Their Lives**, **WGSS 315: Black Women in America** and **WGSS 370: Masculinities**. For current information about our program and curriculum, please visit our [department website](#). Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.



GROWING OUR WGSS ALUM COMMUNITY

SPREAD THE WORD



FESTIVE FEMINIST MIXER WITH WGSS STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ALUMNI @ WILD CHIVE

Share your updates!



GET INVOLVED WITH WGSS

As we move into the next academic year, we are continuing to grow and build our feminist community, on and off campus. If you have ideas about collaborations, ways for our department to connect with your communities or organizations, or if you would like to be more involved in working with our department, please reach out to our chair at lori.baralt@csulb.edu. If you have any general questions, concerns or would like to be added to our contact list, please reach out to our general email at CLA-WGSS@csulb.edu.

HOW TO SUPPORT WGSS

You can help fund student scholarships and programs, bring scholars and practitioners to campus, and build alumni connections by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Click [this link](#) to donate to our Friends of WGSS scholarship. To support the department directly, please click [this link](#). QR codes are below for your convenience as well. You can also contact Marissa Garcia, Senior Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts: Marissa.Garcia@csulb.edu or 562-985-2044 to establish a larger or ongoing gift or scholarship.

Donate to the WGSS Department!



Donate to the Friends of WGSS Scholarship!

